

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 remain present in this application.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by OHMURA, U.S. Patent 4,215,504. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The patent to OHMURA discloses a line guide for a fishing rod. The line guide includes a guide ring 12 with bifurcated legs 17, 17'. These legs extend upwardly from a top of the ring to form to form a rise portion 19, 19'. As explained in column 2, lines 14-24, this rise portion is an important aspect of OHMURA's patent. This provides a protective shield for the rings 12, 14 to safeguard them against damage during use of the fishing rod.

As recited in claim 1 of the present application, however, the line guide has a ring with the two sides extending downwards from the side and below the top of the ring to form the vertical section. Therefore, this is a different arrangement than that disclosed in OHMURA. The present line guide is easier to manufacture but will still be protected from deformation and damage as explained in the specification. It is respectfully submitted that it would NOT be obvious to modify OHMURA's design to that of the present invention since it is this aspect of the design which

is "important" to the OHMURA arrangement. The OHMURA patent would teach away from such a modification.

It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 as well as dependent claim 2 would set for a line guide which is neither suggested nor rendered obvious by the prior art utilized by the Examiner. Therefore, it is requested that the 35 USC 102(b) rejection now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

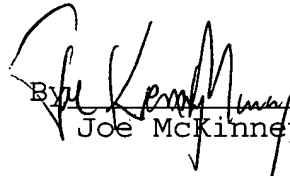
Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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